



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Timothy M. Morrison
Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/>

CONTACT: MARY BIPPUS

(317) 229-2403

Fax: (317) 226-5002

Cell: (317) 590-7928

ANDERSON ATTORNEY CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PRESS RELEASE

Indianapolis- Samuel Hasler, 50, of Anderson, was arrested and charged yesterday with two counts of distributing child pornography. Hasler was also charged with one count of possessing child pornography. The charges are the result of a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Carmel Police Department, and the Fishers Police Department. These law enforcement agencies actively support the Indiana Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Hamilton County Metropolitan Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

According to allegations in the complaint, on December 3, 2009, Hasler used a computer to distributed multiple images of child pornography through the Internet to a person in another state. Later, on February 14, 2010, Hasler allegedly used a computer to distribute further images of child pornography by sending them through the Internet to a police officer working in an undercover capacity. Finally, Hasler allegedly possessed images and videos of child pornography in his law office on an external hard drive. The investigating agents allegedly recovered the child pornography during a search of this office on March 9, 2010. The complaint does not allege that Hasler produced any of the child pornography

Hasler was arrested without incident at this law office on March 9, 2010. An initial appearance was held late yesterday afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge Kennard P. Foster in Indianapolis. Hasler was ordered to reside in a community confinement facility in Indianapolis pending trial.

Gary Hartwig, Special Agent in Charge for ICE's Office of Investigations in Chicago, said "The sexual exploitation of children is a crime that has wide-reaching effects on the most vulnerable members of our society. ICE aggressively uses its investigative authorities to protect our communities from those who seek to exploit children for their selfish gratification. Simply put, we have an obligation to protect those who cannot protect themselves."

According to Assistant United States Attorney Steven D. DeBrotta, who is prosecuting the case for the government, each count of distributing child pornography may be punished by a term of imprisonment of between five (5) and twenty (20) years of imprisonment, a maximum possible fine of \$250,000, and a term of supervised release following any term of imprisonment for up to the life of the offender. Possessing child pornography may be punished by a term of imprisonment of up to ten (10) years, a maximum possible fine of \$250,000, and a term of supervised release following any term of imprisonment for up to the life of the offender.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov>.

The complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

###

20100310.Hasler.ce.wpd